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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-24 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnett, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,870,080, hereinafter referred to as “Burnett”).

It was also stated in the Office action that claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19-22 are allowable if written in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18, and 23-24 as being unpatentable over Burnett.

Burnett expressly states that the invention pertains to communications between a transceiver in a pointing device and a printer or “similarly equipped peripheral device” (col. 3, lines 60-63; col. 4, lines 63-64). As understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, a printer or similarly equipped device is completely different than the peripheral hub device as recited in Applicant’s claim 1. A printer or similarly equipped device is not designed with the capability to be modified to operate as a USB host port at all, much less a USB host port of a peripheral hub device as recited in claim 1. A completely different configuration is required to create the USB host port of the computer system of claim 1. Burnett fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest even the possibility of replacing its printer or similarly equipped peripheral device with a USB host port. In fact, it appears that Burnett has expressly and intentionally excluded a USB host port with the language contained in the patent.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant urges the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18, and 23-24.

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Claims 1, 10, and 24 were amended to correct claim dependency, nomenclature, and antecedent basis errors that were introduced with prior amendments to the claims or that existed in the original claims as filed. These amendments are supported by the original specification and do not add new matter. Further, many of the amendments were discussed and even suggested by the Examiner in a telephonic conference on or about September 15, 2000.

In another teleconference on November 17, 2000 between Examiner Abdelmoniem Elamin and Applicant's attorney, Russell Scott, the differences between a printer or similar device and a USB host port were discussed. Agreement was not reached, but Applicant believes the above statements provide the Examiner with appropriate support for Applicant's position. In addition, Applicant deems it appropriate to point out that signal requirements for upstream communications are different than that of downstream communications. For example (see Universal Serial Bus Specification Revision 1.1, section 4.8.2.1), a hub such as the peripheral hub device of claim 1 includes an upstream port to connect the hub towards the host. The downstream port of the hub allows for the connection to another hub or function. A printer or similar device does not have this capability. The claims have been amended to clarify this distinction.

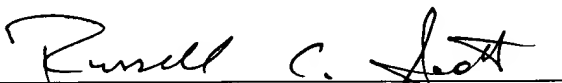
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, amendments, and for various other reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-24 are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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